

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 23, 1891, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1336 Nineteenth Street, Washington, D. C. April 23rd, 1891. My darling Alec:

Your letter today was most welcome and perfectly delightful, I was going to say "satisfactory," but thought better of it, for it is not perfectly satisfactory to hear of your having to be careful of your knee and not taking "unnecessary walks." Why that is the very essence of Beinn Bhreagh healthfulness. If you don't walk all the time you will grow fat and unhealthy. I wish too that you had lent a hand at the rowing. That surely would not have interfered with your knee, and I am always so happy to hear of your taking exercise. But those lambs! I am delighted beyond measure to hear of your success. What do the people say to your triplets, are they afraid of bad luck? Please however don't give up the merinos. I cannot believe that the climate can be so much worse for them at Beinn Bhreagh than on the mountains of Vermont. I remember reading somewhere that giving the wrong kind of food was fatal at certain stages of sheep pregnancy. You know the merinos looked very thin last fall when they should have been fat. Did it occur to you to compare their weights then with those given in sheep books?

Mr. Ellis says he sent the plans for his cottage on to you. Please don't neglect them. I think Grace will almost certainly occupy Crescent Grove.

Oh — Mrs. Campbell, your pretty little widow wrote to me some days ago, wanting to rent her house for the summer months. Why could not Mr. Ellis occupy it? This idea has just this minute occurred to me, and Mr. McCurdy says it is a splendid one. Mr. McKenzie's house is still nearer and is for sale or rent. It seems to me that Mr. and Mrs. Ellis would be more comfortable in either house than they could be in a new, half-finished, hurriedly built affair. It would be so nice to have the men take time about their work and do it thoroughly.

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I am so anxious to see the warehouse go up. It seems to me that among our visitors this summer and those to Baddeck there will surely be some who could be induced to give talks to your workmen, just as Papa did last summer.

It is so strange to hear of you rowing amid ice cakes and of snow when the leaves are bursting forth into full bloom, the lilacs, flowering peaches, almonds, Forsythia, dogwood and all other bushes are gorgeous in their spring finery. The change seems to have been wrought in a night so rapid has been the growth. Daisy thinks it warm and sleeps with the windows wide open and we are all in our summer things. I find this weather most delightful and enjoy my drives in my phaeton with Daisy and sometimes Mr. McCurdy also galloping along side.

Miss True has received her invitations and leaves on Sunday night or Monday morning, and then Day and I go to Twin Oaks to stay until your return.

Your circular of information has not yet arrived, we hope it will soon, as it is time it went out. The engraved invitations to membership have not yet arrived, although they were promised yesterday.

Mr. McCurdy is working at the graphophone in the laboratory and thinks he is making satisfactory progress.

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Daisy is working with her French and German teachers and her music and I hope will do well. Squaw has been sent to be mated to a good thoroughbred.

I was all day today, or nearly all trying to find material for a morning dress. I could not get things to match, that was the difficulty. I have selected something at last which I hope you will like.

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Your father returned yesterday and I went out to see him, he seems well and says he is nearly rested.

Goodnight my dear, it is Elsie's turn now.

Ever yours, Mabel. April 23rd.